



# TENNISON TOWER

January 2021

Tennison Memorial United Methodist Church  
313 N Church Street, Mount Pleasant TX 75455  
903.572.5341 ~ [www.tennisonumc.org](http://www.tennisonumc.org)



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Pastor Mike Cline

Can you believe it? 2020 is finally over!  
And it was quite a year. Many would say it was a terrible year, but there is always good happening behind the scenes.  
As we look around the corner at 2021, I hope you will pause for a minute and look for the good that has been happening. And while we are looking at the good from 2020, maybe we can think about the good we will do in 2021.  
The Wikipedia definition for goal setting is: "setting a clear objective and ensuring that every participant is clearly aware of what is expected from him or her..."  
Here are a few thoughts about setting goals for you, for me, and for the church.  
Everybody needs goals. They may be high or low, but we all need goals.

**"If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time."** ~Author Unknown

We must have a vision! We need a vision about where we want and where we need to be. Sometimes people are content to roll through life with no thought given to where they are going.

**"Vision without action is a daydream. Action without vision is a nightmare."** ~Japanese Proverb

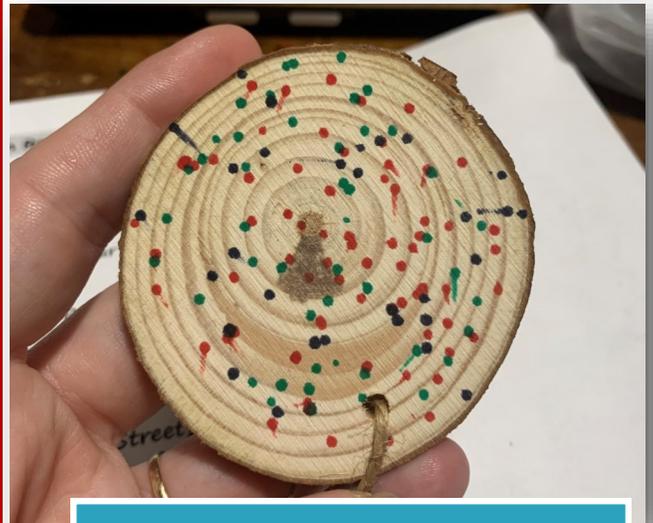
*(cont'd. on pg. 2)*

## WORSHIP FACE TO FACE

One service is held each Sunday morning in the sanctuary at 10 a.m. Please wear your face mask during the service and use hand sanitizer.

## PLEASE GET VACCINATED

The sooner our members are vaccinated, the sooner we can safely worship together in the sanctuary. See bishop's message on page 3.



Kids in the Art of Kindness class decorated wooden ornaments for our homebound members. See page 2.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Enjoy our worship videos, posts and messages on email, YouTube, Facebook and on the church website:

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)  
[www.facebook.com/tennisonumc](https://www.facebook.com/tennisonumc)  
[www.tennisonumc.org](http://www.tennisonumc.org)

News just for youth can be found at:  
[facebook.com/tennisonyouth](https://facebook.com/tennisonyouth)

## From the Pastor's desk (cont'd.)

All too often we give up before ever trying. We may look over our situation thoroughly, but at last say, "It can't be done." And yet, this has been said about the car, electric light, computer and just about every other modern invention.

**"The best angle from which to approach any problem is the try-angle."** ~Author Unknown

How many have sold out to doubt? How many have given up before trying? How many never try because all they see is impossibility? It may seem like no big deal, but...

**"Between the great things we cannot do and the small things we will not do, the danger is that we shall do nothing."** ~Adolph Monod

Oh yes, there is that often referred to, often given, answer to goals. It goes something like this:

"It's just too late for me." OR "It's just too much trouble to believe it could happen."

But if you have breath it is never too late for you.

**"Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending."** ~Anonymous

We must remember what the angel Gabriel said to Mary:

**"For nothing will be impossible with God."** (Luke 1:37)

Peace and blessings as we move into a new 2021!

Mike

## CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Happy New Year! This may be a new year but it is not a new resolution for the Children's Department. In 2021, we are going to uphold our commitment to sharing the love of Jesus with as many children as possible!

With COVID still hanging around, long-term plans are hard to come by. For now, we will be happy with having Sunday school from 9:15-9:45 on Sunday mornings.

I'm sure we are all weary of hearing it but the COVID safety protocols we implemented will remain in effect. We trust that, while inconvenient, parents will keep sick kids home.

Out of an abundance of caution, we are taking steps to keep all the children and teachers as safe as possible. Those safety steps include scanning temperatures at the door, requiring face masks to be worn (we have extras if you need them), giving each child an individual box of supplies waiting in the classroom and socially distancing from other people.

The Art of Kindness Class is back at it, occasionally working during the Sunday school hour. Before Christmas, they made cards and ornaments for our homebound and those on our prayer list.

If you know of someone who isn't a member of Tennison but could use a little pick-me-up please give names and addresses to me or the church office so we can share some love.

All children are welcome at Tennison. Don't be shy. Invite all that you see. You never know who needs to know they are loved and wanted.

We are the church. While there are many great ways to be the church, one of them is simple, just invite families to church. Let them know we have a Sunday school class for all their kids and that they are welcome and wanted.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to let parents know the sound of children in the church is a blessing and we welcome it. As a personal testimony, you all know my kids are loud and wiggly and they have been loved and welcomed. They have always felt like they were an important part of the church and as a mom, that is all you really want for them.

So, invite the young mom with the crazy kids running around Walmart, Super 1, or Aldi. Let her know that you don't see a gaggle of crazy kids. You see God's children and they are wanted just as they are.

Love and blessings,  
Mrs. Corey

## GET VACCINATED AGAINST COVID

Dear Friends,

The vaccines against Covid-19 are now being administered. They have been rigorously tested and found to be safe and effective. We should all be grateful to the scientists, doctors, technicians and leaders who developed this protection in record time.

### **Now it is our turn. We should get vaccinated for the love of Christ.**

Why? Because Jesus said, "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." We are called to love everyone whom Christ loves, and that is everybody!

### **Getting vaccinated is an act of love for our neighbors, our communities, and our nation.**

I will be getting vaccinated at the earliest opportunity and I urge you to do the same. Because it will take several months for this process to reach everyone, in the meantime I will be wearing a mask when I am out in public.

[Watch the attached video conversation](#) with Dr. Marc Boom, Rev. Enid Henderson and Rev. Luis Ramirez. It may help convey this message as well.

Grace and peace,



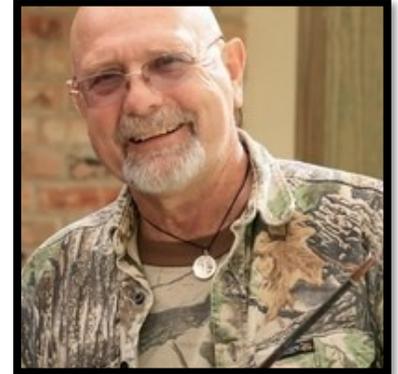
Scott J. Jones  
Resident Bishop  
The Texas Annual  
Conference  
Houston, Texas

## IN MEMORIAM

### **Jack Greenlee (1947-2020)**

Jack O'Neil Greenlee (aka: Greenlee, Dad, Jack-Jack, Jackie, JackPa) was born to Neil and Jessie Greenlee on September 21, 1947 in Gorman, TX. He died Dec. 19 after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

He had a deep love for potted meat and saltine crackers doused with tomato juice. He loved his wife of 45 years, Jan, aka "Tooley Girl," along with hunting, fishing, picking up hitchhikers,



war movies, sweetened iced tea, poker with his buddies, collecting too many tools for his workshop, babies, his many hunting dogs and pretending to not enjoy gossip (not necessarily in that order.) He had the amazing ability to eat an entire apple, seeds and all, and to make everyone that met him fall in love with him and his charm.

He grew up in dusty Monahans with his kid sister, Cindy "Lou" Bails, and graduated from Texas Tech University in 1971. He was an Accountant/Warehouse Supervisor at Luminant in Mount Pleasant for 33 years. In retirement, he allowed Jan to drag him all over the world on many trips and cruises and, in turn, dragged her to visit all of the US battleships. He relished his role as Dad to Chad "Rack" O'Neil (& wife Laura), Corey (& wife Judith), Jason Henry (& wife Kathy), and Jaci "Princess" Lynn (& husband Rick), who is the lucky recipient of his hairball. He was the beloved and awesome JackPa to Kimberly, Hunter, Brett, Hayden, Jessie, Marley, Gabriella and Lily Jax. And no one had a better, more unique Uncle Jack than his many nieces and nephews.

He was a member of Tennison MUMC for 44 years. The family asks you to perform an act of kindness for someone in Jack's name. Much like the time (and to Jan's dismay) he gave the family's turkey away on Thanksgiving Day.

## WORSHIP COUNTS

December 6	210
December 13	360
December 20	239
December 24	355
December 27	154

An average of 264 people worshipped with us each week in December using Facebook, YouTube and Tennison's website to access our worship videos in addition to those attending the service.

## PRAYERS NEEDED

Jack Greenlee's family, Bob Currey's family (Judy Hamilton's cousin), Debbie Thompson's daughter Lindsay and her family, Esther Okolo and her family, Mark Leshar, Joyce Roach, family of Kris Dean, Cassie Rae Crandall, Linda Kirk, Lisa Lide, Justin Freelen, Marian Reed, Joe Sandlin, Ida Jean Sanders, Kathy Hunt, John Meadows, Harold Sanders, Bob Dunegan, Kathy Huffman, Socorro Sausedo, Chris Shelton and Melba Spann.

Confined to home: Judy Barry and Bob Nuchols.

Serving in the military: Nicklaus Kirkham, Christopher Manchigiah and Charles Moler.

## CONTACT US

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Closed for lunch 12-1. Closed on Fridays

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## ANNIVERSARIES

DURRUM, JR., Frank & Carol (43)	01/07
HAMILTON, Chuck & Judy (49)	01/08
HENRY, Chad & Melody (27)	01/08



## BIRTHDAYS

HENRY, Kincaide	01/04
FARR, Tracy	01/05
GUEST, Jesse	01/09
MERKA, Jeanette	01/10
CLINE, Mike	01/11
ENGELHARDT, Christopher	01/11
HARGROVE, Randy	01/11
WOBICK, Bob	01/11
GUZMAN, Angel	01/13
TAYLOR, Pat	01/13
SIGAL, Barbara	01/14
MCCLELLAN, Bill	01/15
MILLS, Corey	01/16
YANCEY, Lilly Jane	01/16
HARGROVE, Madison	01/17
HENRY, Chad	01/19
HENRY, Jace	01/19
FENDER, Lee	01/24
BARRY, Charles	01/26
HAMILTON, Chuck	01/27
GUEST, Bethany	01/29
GUEST, Charity	01/29
ANDERSON, Tasa	01/31
CALDWELL, Barbara	01/31